

Ubuzima bw'Ikinyarwanda

(stage of research and
development of Kinyarwanda)

Itsinda ry'Ikinyarwanda

Amateka y'Ikinyarwanda mu ncamake (overview of Kinyanyarwanda background)

Mbere y'Ubukoroni: Ikinyarwanda, umuyoboro w'ubumenyi (before colonization: Kinyarwanda, an only medium of instruction)

- **Umuhuza w'ubuyobozi n'abayoborwa**

Inzego : igitaramo, itorero

All the times Kinyarwanda was a language that unified local leaders and the population. Two formal organs in charge of promoting Kinyarwanda : an evening gathering ("Igitaramo") and "Itorero" which was a Rwandan traditional school.

- **Mu gihe cy'ubukoroni: udusomo twa nyirarureshwa, haza mukeba (during colonial period: unvalued lessons of Kinyarwanda)**

The colonial period (Germans and Belgians) brought foreign languages in Rwanda like German, Kiswahili, French, Latin, Greek, Flemish, Arabic and English which had to co-exist with Kinyarwanda. During this colonial period, Kinyarwanda stayed the language of the large Rwandan community. During the Germans' protectorate, there were organized kinds of unvalued Kinyarwanda lessons knowing that, at that time, the prestigious languages were German and Kiswahili.

- Only White Fathers and missionaries took action for the promotion of Kinyarwanda like the writing of *Manuel de langue Kinyarwanda* by Hurel Eugène (1911), *Worterbuch Deutsch -Kinyarwanda* by Dufays Félix (1912), *Ifiberi rya urunyarwanda* by Protestant missionaries (1914).
- During Belgium colonization, a book reserved for pupils of Rwanda was written by a Rwandan. This is *Igitabu cy'abany'ekoli bo mu Rwanda* by Balthazar Gafuku (1929). We can also mention that from 1928 to 1938, Kinyarwanda orthography was harmonized and standardized by Bishop Léon Classe

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- Kinyarwanda was somehow given a “prestige” as it was the medium of instruction in primary schools. But in our research (Niyomugabo, 2004) we found that the idea behind (the hidden agenda) was that Belgians wanted to strictly forbid Rwandan citizens to have access to French language (“the Language of Civilization”). This made a serious impact on the promotion and the prestige of Kinyarwanda especially in the eyes of intellectuals. Another reason of teaching in Kinyarwanda was just to banish Kiswahili, a language which was associated to Muslims and that was promoted by Germans (Niyomugabo, 1992).

Ikinyarwanda mu gihe cy'ubwigenge, intambwe ishimishije

- **From independence (1962-to date), a positive evolution of the promotion of Kinyarwanda**

Mu by'amategeko : ururimi rurengerwa: Itegeko nshinga, Ingingo ya 5

Legal status: (de jure status): The first thing to say is that all the Constitutions of the Independent Republic of Rwanda (one can cite the first and the current ones) stipulate that Kinyarwanda is the National and Official Language of the Republic of Rwanda (article 5 of the Constitution of 24 November 1962 as well as the one of 4 June 2003).

- **Mu mikoreshereze: De facto status**

- **Mu burezi/in education sector**

Ikinyarwanda mu mashuri makuru (UNR: 1977: a degree F-K; IPN:1979 LCA/LLA

The educational reform of 1978/1979: In general, the educational reform of the school year 1978/1979 aiming at teaching all subjects in Kinyarwanda (kinyarwandization era) showed that it is possible to teach and learn any subject in Kinyarwanda (Ntakirutimana, 2012:11). Indeed, since the school year of 1978/1979, Kinyarwanda was the medium of instruction in primary education of eight years.

Ibyaherekeje iyi politiki yo mu burezi/measure to accompany this reform

- Umushinga w'urutonde / Urutonde project (to avail terminologies in all areas)
- Guhindura ibitabo / translating books from French into Kinyarwanda
- Guhugura abarimu/ training of teachers
- Starting the revision of Kinyarwanda orthography
- Ubushakashatsi bwimbitse mu Kinyarwanda/deep research in Kinyarwanda (Texts books in phonology, phonetics, morphology,...dictionaries ,... BA, MA PhD in Kinyarwanda or on Kinyarwanda...Gasimba Memoire

- In 2010, the Cabinet took a decision that Kinyarwanda becomes the medium of instruction for all subjects taught in lower primary, i.e. from p1 to p3. Thus, basing on this, we can say that in the Basic Education of twelve years (equivalent to primary plus secondary levels), Kinyarwanda is taught as a subject. At tertiary level, some Universities and Institutions of Higher Learning have a department of Kinyarwanda like in the College of Education of the University of Rwanda, Rwanda teachers' College, Rukara Campus, PIAS, IPB and others. Moreover since 2010, the Rwandan Academy of Language and Culture, with the mission of the safeguard and promotion of Kinyarwanda as language and culture, was set up by the Law no 01/2010 dated 29/01/2010.

- - Promotion of Kinyarwanda by private initiatives (clubs, British Council, CELA, French Embassy.....)
- - Kinyarwanda abroad (taught in Harvard, Cardiff,...

. Mu itangazamakuru

Ibitangazamakuru/media: print, electronic: 99% in Kinyarwanda

But what kind of Kinyarwanda?

Mu iyobokamana/in Religion

- Bibles and Korans available in Kinyarwanda
- Services in Kinyarwanda

- **Mu mu butabera, mu nzego z'ibanze, kwa muganga, mu Nteko Ishinga Amategeko,....**

In justice, local government, at the hospital, at Parliament

All activities in Kinyarwanda

But what kind of Kinyarwanda?

• Mu bushakashatsi/ In Research

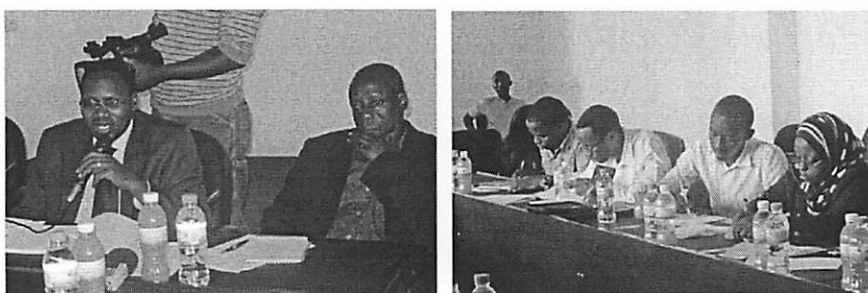
Ibyashyizweho/organs established aiming at promoting research in/on Kinyarwanda

- HILs, INRS,IRST, RALC, Commission of Itorero ry'Igihugu
- **Some achievements:**
- Academic works in Kinyarwanda (BA dissertations, articles,...
- Dictionaries and lexicons (K-K, K-F, K-E,....K-C
- Books of grammar, Kinyarwanda linguistics,...

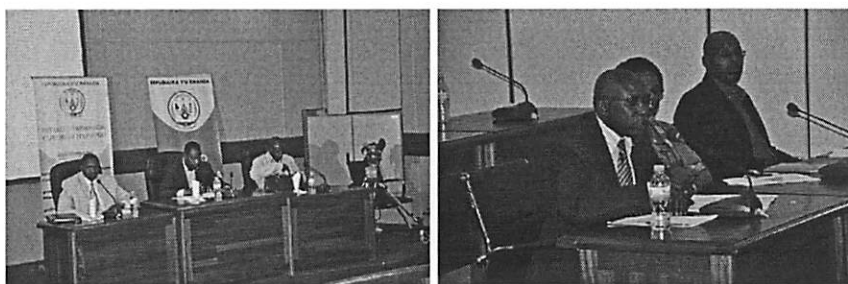
- Mu buhanzi/ artistic creation
- Writings in all literary genres (some won international prizes,...)
- Translated books from Kiswahili, Frenchinto Kinyarwanda
- Review of Kinyarwanda standard Spelling (1985,2013)
- Book on the" proper" use of Kinyarwanda


- **Ibibazo, ahakwiye kongerwamo imbaraga/ Challenges to be addressed**
- Tendency to mix up languages (....birth of Kinyafranglais,...)
- Inefficient methods of teaching and learning Kinyarwanda as mother tongue and Kinyarwanda as a FL/KLE
- Inadequate and insufficient terminologies
- Lack of reading materials in Kinyarwanda as well as pedagogical teaching and learning aids.
- Insufficient qualified teaching staff as well as motivated students to learn Kinyarwanda at all levels of education.

**IBIGANIRO N'IBITANGAZAMAKURU BINYURANYE
KU MIKORESHEREZE INOZE YIKINYRWABDA (a
press conference on the use of Kinyarwanda -2013)**



**UBUKANGURAMBAGA BWIFASHISHIJE KUBAZA
BITERA KUMENYA (sensitization on the use of
Kinyarwanda in a town meeting)**





Twese duhagurukire kuba abavugizi b'iterambere
n'ubusugire by'Ikinyarwanda

mu mvugo no mu nyandiko, umusingi ntajegajega
wa "Ndi Umunyarwanda", ururimi rw'Abanyafurika
Let's join hands to promote Kinyarwanda Language,
the pillar and foundation of the Rwandan Spirit
"Ubunyarwanda", the Language of Africans

Murakoze

2014

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